

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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Those who may be desirous of receiving a regular supply of this work are respectfully requested to make application to their respective newsmen in London. If they should happen to have no newsmen, and should be at a loss to know to whom to apply, a line addressed to Mr. Richard Bagshaw, Bow Street, Covent Garden, will be punctually attended to.—The first, second, third, fourth, and fifth numbers may be obtained by the same mode of application.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

Friday, February 12, 1802.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The proceedings of this day were confined to the receiving of certain accounts from the Commissioners of the Customs and the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and to a motion, which was agreed to, for postponing the consideration of the appeal of Johnson v. Scotts.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Accounts were received from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the Naval Debt; the Exchequer Bills Bill was read a first time; the committee of the whole House relative to the American Treaty was postponed; the Southern Whale Fishery Bill was read a second time; the Eel Bill was postponed.

PRIVILEGE.

Lord Belkestone rose to call the attention of the House to a circumstance materially affecting its dignity and privileges. His lordship said, that, he wished the introduction of this subject had fallen to the lot of some member of greater experience than himself, as he was aware, if the House should concur with him in opinion, some further proceeding thereon would be necessary. Of the breach of privilege, daily committed in publishing the debates of that House, he did not mean to complain, though he by no means justified it, and could not agree with those gentlemen, who apprehended evil consequences from a suppression of the press. The newspapers, however, not content with giving reports of the proceedings of that House, had taken upon them to insert disquisitions on the parlia-

mentary conduct of its members, which was a direct and daring attack upon the privileges of the House, and, as such, called loudly for reprehension. He held in his hand, he said, a news-paper, called the *True Briton*, dated the 10th of February, in which were several paragraphs, referring to the debate of Monday evening last, and containing remarks on the character and conduct of two members of that House, which, he trusted, would not pass unnoticed. The paragraphs, which he had mentioned, alluded to the debate of Monday last, relative to the army extraordinaries, and spoke of two of the members, who delivered their sentiments on that subject, in language so gross, that he would not intrude the reading of it upon the House.—[A loud cry of "read, read."] His lordship then read the paragraphs,* and observed, that

* Extract from the *True Briton*, 10th Feb.

"The only step that could have been taken by the present government to avoid discharging the expense thus incurred, must have been, to stop the payment of the bills drawn by different commissaries or envoys, when presented at the Treasury. Such a measure it might well suit the wise head of a M—t—n, or a R—s—n to recommend.—These bills always come accompanied by proper explanations of the expenses which they were to defray, and supported by regular vouchers, which, with the accounts, undergo the most minute investigation, first, by the Comptrollers of Army Accounts, and afterwards by the Auditors. Any reports made by them to the Treasury may of course be called for by any member of Parliament who has any doubts about the correctness or propriety of any one charge. On the part of the minister, there has not only been a readiness to give an explanation on any charge, but he has courted and challenged investigation."

"It must have afforded very great satisfaction to the public to find, that, notwithstanding the vastness of our marine establishment, and the great and expensive naval operations which were carried on in the course of the last year, a very considerable saving in that branch of the public expenditure had actually been effected even during that period. We were not ignorant, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his able coadjutor, the First Lord of the Admiralty, had particularly exerted themselves to introduce economy into that department."

"That every article of public expenditure should be closely scrutinized by the representatives of the people, the people have a right to expect. It is their first duty. But a discerning public will have no difficulty in discriminating between the friv-

he was convinced he was only doing his duty in bringing this subject before the House. Personally he was not interested in it; he had taken no part in the debate, to which the paragraphs referred, nor had he even the slightest parliamentary acquaintance with the gentlemen alluded to in them. He did not mean to make any motion on the subject, but would leave it to the House to take such measures as its wisdom should dictate.—*Mr. Martin* expressed his contempt of the aspersions contained in the paragraphs, which had attracted the noble lord's attention, and was proceeding to make some further remarks, when he was interrupted by the *Speaker*, who reminded him, that, as there was no motion before the House, any further conversation on the subject would be irregular.

SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. Wilberforce reminded the House of the notice, which, towards the close of the last session, he had given, respecting the Slave Trade. He now understood, that *Mr. Canning* meant to bring forward a motion on the subject, and wished to know what were the nature and object of that intended motion, as also when it was intended to be brought forward.—*Mr. Canning* replied, that he certainly had it in contemplation to bring forward such a motion; but, that he apprehended it would not extend so far as that contemplated by *Mr. Wilberforce*; its object would be, not to abolish, but to prevent the increase of, the slave trade. The motion, which he had to propose, was not intended to militate against, but to strengthen and confirm, the interests of the West-India planters. With respect to the time of making his motion, he was not prepared to fix on that at present; because he was not as yet fully apprized of the intentions of ministers on the subject, and because, as his motion would refer principally to Trinidad, he entertained some doubts of the propriety of discussing any measure relative to the internal management of that island, till the island itself should be definitively in our possession.—

low cavilling of half-witted Senators, and the laudable vigilance of the statesman or the patriot.—To the sacred character of the latter, let not that individual presume to aspire, who dares to bring a charge of scandalous profusion, from the proof of which he shrinks; and who by a disgusting cant about candour and honesty, perhaps, but vainly, hopes to impose upon a public, in whose estimation he will be found to be of little worth, on the one hand, and of great merit, on the other.



General Gascoyne wished to know if the gentlemen intended to unite their respective motions, as at present neither of them had given any notice.—*The Speaker* observed that, as there was no motion before the House, further conversation on the subject would not be regular.

Monday, February 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

A message (which will be found under the head of the Commons) was delivered to his Majesty, relative to the civil list, which their lordships agreed to take into consideration on the 22d of February.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A new writ was ordered for Heytsbury in the room of Lord Clifden, now Lord Mendip; also for East Looe, in room of Sir John Mitford, Knt. now Lord Redesdale.

BOOKSELLERS AND PRINTERS PETITION.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre said, he held in his hand a petition, signed by upwards of 200 Booksellers and Printers, stating the injury which their trade suffered from the additional duty upon paper, which fell immediately upon their capital, and but slowly upon the public. He stated, that booksellers were obliged to print great numbers of every work, in order to render the price as moderate as possible, and, as a considerable proportion of each edition remained long time on hand, the duty on paper withheld so much money from the trade. To attempt to avoid this by printing a small number of copies, would enhance the price, and, of course, make proportionate diminution in the demand with respect to the export, if what was stated in the petition was correct (and petitioners were ready to give proof of being so), the trade was nearly annihilated, and it was a serious fact, that editions of the best British authors had been printed abroad, and were selling for half the price at which they could be afforded here. Under these circumstances they prayed for a repeal of the additional duties, or for other relief as the House should think proper. He concluded by moving for leave to bring up the petition, which being granted, and the petition having been read, *Chancellor of the Exchequer* said, that he hoped the matter would become a subject of discussion in the House. He was aware of the disadvantages, which the Booksellers

and Printers them far doubted suggest sure the ticable ro almost th imposing not repe exportat to Amer the work an end than six printing exported could be tain proo our expo tively int cluded b barbarou roots of chequer re to the in and his advantag widely di *Mr. Lefevre* he should red to a c ordered t

Message follows:

G. R. "His M "quanti "the pr "defrayi "and civ "inadequ "a consi "bly inc "Majest "before "with co "tion of "the sam "and to "may app "The Cha "should do "had been "cations, n

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and Printers laboured under, and he thought them fairly stated in the petition; but he doubted as to the effect of the remedy suggested by the petitioners, though he was sure the House would yield them all practicable relief.—*Mr. Sheridan* said, he had been almost the only one, who had opposed the imposing of the additional duty, which, if not repealed, would entirely annihilate the exportation of books, which, with respect to America, to France, and other parts of the world, was, indeed, already nearly at an end; and he understood that no less than six editions of Shakespeare were now printing at Paris, whence they could be exported for one half the price that they could be afforded at in this country, a certain proof, that, if the duty were continued, our export trade in books must fall entirely into the hands of France. He concluded by observing, that the tax was a barbarous one, as it struck at the very roots of literature.—*The Chancellor of the Exchequer* repeated his opinion with respect to the inefficacy of the suggested repeal, and his thorough conviction, that the disadvantages complained of, arose from causes widely different from the duty on paper.—*Mr. Lefevre* gave notice, that, on Monday next, he should move that the petition be referred to a committee.—The petition was then ordered to lie on the table.*

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented a Message from his Majesty, which was as follows:

G. R.

"His Majesty feels great concern in acquainting the House of Commons, that the provision made by Parliament for defraying the expenses of his household and civil establishment, has been found inadequate for their support, and that a considerable debt has been unavoidably incurred, an account of which his Majesty has given directions to be laid before Parliament. His Majesty relies with confidence on the zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, to take the same into their early consideration, and to adopt, such measures as the same may appear to them to require."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he should do no more at present than what had been uniformly done upon similar occasions, namely, to move that his Majesty's

Message should be referred to the committee of supply. His Majesty's Message was then ordered to be referred to the committee of supply *nem. con.*

PRIVILEGE.

Lord Folkestone said, he would trespass upon the indulgence of the House for a few moments, to recall to their attention a subject, which, it would be recollected, he had thought it his duty to bring forward on Friday last. He had then stated what appeared to him to be a gross breach of their privileges, but he had not then thought proper to prosecute the subject, and for two reasons: the one was, that he hoped some gentleman better qualified than himself would have undertaken it; the other was, the hopes he entertained that the persons connected with this kind of publication, would have taken the hint from the observations, which he then made. In both these hopes he had been disappointed. With regard to the first, he found that delicacy had prevented other gentlemen from interfering in what he had taken up. In the second hope also he had been disappointed, but in a different way, and it was with great surprize that he found in the same paper of the next day, instead of an apology, a justification, on grounds in which was claimed the right of doing it as the right of Englishmen. The Privileges of the House were then come to an issue, and the question now stood on a different ground. He conceived that if no notice had been taken of it, it might have been supposed, that the House had overlooked the offence; but now that notice had been taken of it, and these persons had attempted to justify their conduct,* he thought it

* Extract from the *True Briton* of Feb. 13.

"It will be seen, in our parliamentary proceedings, that notice was taken last night in the House of Commons of part of a paragraph which appeared in this paper of Wednesday last. We flatter ourselves we know too well what is due to the dignity and privileges of Parliament, to make any comments upon the proceedings there, which are inconsistent with the just and acknowledged freedom of the press; but at the same time we feel no disposition to abate any particle of the right of the latter. Keeping within the limits of the law, which we have never intentionally transgressed, we shall assert the rights of British subjects; and we conceive that the conduct of public men is a very fit subject for temperate discussion with the people of England. If such is not the law of this country, and the recognized liberty of the subject, we have much misunderstood both; and we have been contending, for many years, for what we have not only not understood, but what, if the contrary doctrine is admitted, does not exist."

The additional duty on printing paper only is spoken of in this petition. The old duty was 2½d. and the additional duty is also 2½d.

was necessary in defence of the privilege, which the House had always claimed and maintained, to proceed farther. He therefore proposed to move a resolution upon the subject, and he believed the regular way, upon such occasions, was, to give in the paper to be read at the table, after which he should make a motion thereon.—*Lord Sheffield* moved that the gallery should be cleared.

Tuesday, February 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Hearing council on the bill to dissolve the marriage of George Hoare, Jun. with Elizabeth Cooke, was the principal part of the business of this day. The *Lord Chancellor* and *Lord Thurlow* spoke on the subject, and the consideration of the case was deferred, upon the motion of the former.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS.

A petition was presented, from the county of Galway, respecting a new county gaol;—from the London Dock Company, praying for an extension of the act passed last session;—from the inhabitants of Liverpool, stating the necessity of erecting a new town hall;—from the merchants of Grenada and St. Vincents, praying for a postponement of the payment of those Exchequer bills, which they would otherwise have to discharge in March next;—from the *Board of Agriculture*, setting forth the success of its labours, and praying for such grant of money as Parliament might think proper to allow;—from the inhabitants of Turso, stating the advantages, which would arise from making a harbour to that port;—from the mayor and aldermen of London, stating the necessity of making an addition of £50,000, to the former £72,000, granted for the purpose of making docks, canals, &c. in the Isle of Dogs;—from the mayor and aldermen of London, praying for a law for enlarging the market of Smithfield;—from the same, praying for an enlargement of the act for improving the access to Temple Bar.—These several petitions were ordered to lie on the table.

CIVIL LIST.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* said, that the papers now presented, and those already before the House, formed a complete statement of the receipt and expenditure of the civil list, from the year 1786, to the present

time. He should now only move, that the accounts should lie on the table for the perusal of the members, and to-morrow should move to refer them to the consideration of a select committee.—*Mr. Sheridan* wished to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he expected to have it in command from his Majesty to make any communication to the House, respecting the situation and rights of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales: he wished it to be understood, that this question proceeded entirely from himself, without any communication with any person whatever.—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* said, he had it in command to make any such communication, nor had he any reason to suppose should receive any commands to that effect.—*Mr. Nicholls* said, that when these papers were referred to a committee, he should move as an instruction to the committee to inquire what sums of money had been received for grants of lands in the Duchy of Cornwall, made in pursuance of an act of the 8th Geo. III. authorizing the granting of lands, &c. in that Duchy.

Wednesday, February 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Private business and the forwarding of bills occupied the day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions were presented, for improving the streets and making new docks at Liverpool; and for obtaining parliamentary aid for the Veterinary College.—The Bill, and the Southern Whale Fishery Bill, were read a third time and passed.

CIVIL LIST.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* moved “a committee be appointed to take into consideration the several accounts presented yesterday to this House by the *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, by his Majesty’s command, relative to the civil list; that they do examine the said accounts, and report the same, as it may appear to them, together with their observations thereupon, to the House.” He prefaced this motion by observing, he wished for a full examination of the several accounts relating to the civil list, by throwing out some hints, tending to shew the causes, from which the debt in that branch of expenditure had arisen: reserving himself for a more ample explanation, when the committee should be

reported put, Mr. nity of r Royal Hi quoted l Royal Hi from the to every Having e that, the ing the m not been plied by assisting t list, the applicatio been defi fore, his doubtedly imburseme interest c amount of the rever birth of t £400,000 this time, Deductin his Roya bishment which di giving cr made his remain du £600,000 entered in allowance been mad from whic attending Highness were con of the es Mr. Satio however Highness been defi in fact a public.—ground, v expenses pressed a to the qu served, th of our an civil list, sine reign never to l was, Mrs. gress in the minist

reported thereon.—On the question being put, *Mr. Manners Sutton* took this opportunity of referring to the revenues of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He quoted law authorities to prove, that his Royal Highness, as Duke of Cornwall, was, from the moment of his birth, fully entitled to every thing belonging to that Duchy. Having established this point, he stated, that, the Ducal revenues, which arose during the minority of his Royal Highness, had not been secured to him, but had been applied by his Majesty, for the purposes of assisting to defray the expenses of the civil list, the whole of which expenses, if such application had not taken place, must have been defrayed by the public, and, therefore, his Royal Highness had now an undoubted just claim on the public for a reimbursement of both the principal and the interest of the revenues so applied, the amount of which *Mr. Sutton* stated thus: the revenue from 1762 (the time of the birth of the Prince) to 1783, amounted to £400,000, which, with the interest up to this time, would amount to nearly £900,000. Deducting, therefore, the sums advanced his Royal Highness previous to the establishment of a separate provision for him, which did not take place till 1781, and giving credit for every other allowance made his Royal Highness there would now remain due to him, from the public, from £600,000 to £700,000. *Mr. Sutton* next entered into a comparative statement of the allowances, which had, at different epochs, been made to the different heirs apparent, from which it appeared, that the expenses attending the establishment of his Royal Highness had not, when all circumstances were considered, been greater than those of the establishments of his predecessors. *Mr. Sutton* concluded by observing, that, however great the expenses of his Royal Highness had necessarily been, they had been defrayed by himself, and that he was, in fact a creditor, and not a debtor to the public.—*Mr. Fox* went over the same ground, with regard to the revenues and expenses of the Prince, to whom he expressed a most fervent attachment; but, as to the question before the House, he observed, that it had been the wise practice of our ancestors, to fix the amount of the civil list, at the beginning of each successive reign, and that such amount ought never to be liable to increase for two reasons, first, because such liability might greatly influence the king in the choice of his ministers, and, second, because it might

render the king dependent upon the Parliament. *Mr. F.* did not object to the present motion; but he said, that, if the present application for aid to the civil list was agreed to, and the concerns of his Royal Highness passed unnoticed, it would be neither just towards the Prince, honourable to the House, nor creditable to the country.—*Mr. Pitt* agreed that the claims of his Royal Highness ought to be put into a train of enquiry, and, whatever opinions he might have entertained, founded upon the knowledge, which the situation he formerly held enabled him to obtain, no prejudice would remain in his mind, if the House should think proper to enter on the subject. With respect to the matter now before the House, he agreed with *Mr. Fox*, that the granting of the civil list for life was the best mode that could be devised; but he could not agree, that the amount of it never ought to be augmented, however necessary such augmentation might be rendered by the peculiar circumstances of the times.—The motion was then agreed to, and a select committee was appointed to examine into the papers and accounts laid before the House.

TREATY WITH AMERICA.

The House having resolved itself into a committee to consider the American Treaty Act, *Mr. Vansittart* said, that there having been a duty imposed in America upon British shipping, it had been thought necessary to impose a countervailing duty, in this country, on American vessels. The United States of America had now, however, agreed to take off the duty on their part, if Great-Britain would, on the other hand, abolish the countervailing duty. As, however, the treaty containing this agreement might not arrive in time to allow of an Act of Parliament being passed for the express purpose of abolishing the duty, he thought it would be expedient that his Majesty should be empowered to take it off whenever the treaty did arrive. He therefore moved, "That the chairman should be directed to move the House for leave to bring in a bill to enable his Majesty, for a time to be limited, to cause the countervailing duty on American shipping to cease."—The committee agreed to the motion, and the House having resumed, the report was ordered to be received to-morrow.*

* This is a master-stroke of policy, on the part of the American Government, which, at a very early period, imitated other nations, in laying such duties

Thursday, February 18.

None but private business in the Lords; and, in the Commons, nothing occurred but mere matters of routine, except, that, upon the motion for bringing in a bill for removing the countervailing duties on American shipping, Gen. Gascoyne said, that he wished the bill not to be hurried through the House, as he wanted time to make some previous enquiry on the subject. Leave was given to bring in the bill, but, at the same time an order was moved for, and granted, to lay before the House, accounts relative to the shipping from America, for some years past.

PUBLIC PAPERS.

Madrid, January 12, 1802.

Circular Letter to the Ministers of Finance, and the Directors of the Customs.

"His Majesty having ordered that in
"the Royal Custom-House, Merchandizes,
"being the manufacture of the North and
"the Pas de Calais, shall not be acknow-
"ledged as such, unless accompanied by
"an original certificate, signed by the
"Commissary of Foreign Commerce in the
"said Departments, or by the Under Com-

as would discriminate between American and foreign tonnage. This measure tended to promote an increase in the shipping of America, which had not shipping at that time, adequate to the carrying of one half of her produce to the foreign market. Other nations, particularly Great Britain, feeling the fatal effects of the success of this regulation, enacted such countervailing laws, and imposed such duties on American tonnage, and on goods imported in American bottoms, as effectually removed the evil. The shipping of America had, however, greatly increased, during peace, and, during the war, though new countervailing duties had been laid by Great Britain, the American ships, which were not subject to the high war-insurance, increased in an astonishing degree. America, having now no need of more shipping, and having, indeed, a superabundance of it, she perceives, that Great Britain (who will also now want employment for a vast portion of her increased tonnage) will be able to land American goods in Europe as cheap as herself, unless these countervailing duties are taken off; she, therefore, now does away her discriminations, and calls upon us to remove our countervailing duties, leaving the navigation of the two countries to a rivalry in cheapness of freight, in which she is sure to surpass us. Never, from the day that our countervailing duties cease, will there be a single shipment, from America to Europe, in a British bottom. The spirit, if not the letter, of our treaty with America, (vide Porcupine's Works, vol. ii. p. 251) obliges us to pass the law now proposed; but, what becomes of the calculations of Sir Frederick M. Eden, respecting an increase of navigation to the American States?

"missary, and sealed with the arms
"Spain; I have given the proper order
"to the Directors of the Royal Customs
"in conformity to these orders of his Ma-
"jesty, to prevent in future any other Merchan-
"dizes than those of France, from enjoying
"the same advantages on their importation
"Spain.
"You will give the greatest publicity
"this order, in order that such Merchants
"dizes, on their arrival in Spain, shall not
"experience any difficulty in their intro-
"duction into the Kingdom, for want
"being accompanied by the proper Cer-
"tificates.

(Signed) "Miguel Cayetano Soler."

* This regulation, which has been adopted from compulsion, will be extremely injurious to Spain; but, it will be injurious to England also, and will essentially promote the interests, and gratify the policy, of France. When the people of Norway, whose goods, even during the war, found their way to Spain; when these people were dragging the mail-coach which brought them the news of peace, they little imagined, that that peace would be productive of regulations such as are here announced to the world. While the war lasted, it was out of the power of France to profit from the abject servitude of Spain, in this way. Belgium and the North of France were not in a state to invite the employment of capital in reviving their manufactures; but now they are in that state; and therefore France extorts from Spain an exclusive right of supplying her with those articles which Belgium and the North of France are capable of producing, and which she would still supply, as she hitherto has done.

This is what was foretold at the moment of the publication of the ominous Preliminaries of Peace; we have, as yet, seen but a small part of those commercial regulations, which France has prepared for the abject powers of Europe. From all the states of Europe she will exact the same, or similar, terms. She will prohibit the exportation of Spanish wool to England, and she will also prohibit the exportation of raw-silk from Italy to England. She will draw a chain round the Continent, from the Baltic to the Gulph of Venice, and cut off our communication therewith, as completely as she cuts us off from communication with one of her interior departments.

The consequence of these measures will be a rapid decline in our manufactures of every sort. It is said, by men, who are too lazy to think, or too cowardly to look danger in the face, that other nations will have our manufactures, some how or other. They will, indeed, have manufactures of the same sort, and if the French cannot make them, Englishmen and English capital will go to the dominions of France for that purpose.

But, it will be asked, why did not France formerly injure us in this way? Simply, because she could not; because she dared not; because the powers of Europe were independent; and because she would have had to fight us, if she had attempted to exclude our goods from any port in Europe, except her own.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America, laid before Congress, on the 24th of December, 1801.

The permanent revenues of the United States, according to the laws now in force, consist of:—1st, Duties on merchandize and tonnage. 2d. Internal duties on stills and domestic distilled spirits, refined sugar, licenses to retailers, sales at auction, and pleasurable carriages. 3d. Proceeds of the sales of public lands. 4th. Duties on postage. 5th. Dividends on shares in the bank of the United States. 6th. Incidental, arising from fees, fine and penalties, repayments in the treasury, and sales of public property other than lands.

Duties on Merchandize and Tonnage.

The receipts in the Treasury, arising from that source, amounted, for the year ending on the 30th September, 1801, to dollars 10,126,213,92; but, calculating upon a considerable diminution in the produce of the imports; in consequence of the European peace, the Secretary makes his calculations upon averages drawn from the produce of former years. He divides the preceding nine years into two distinct periods; the first, from the first day of Jan. 1790, on the 31st day of Dec. 1792, includes the three years which immediately preceded the European maritime war; the second includes the six first years of that war, viz: from the commencement of 1795, to the close of 1798. In order to obtain a distinct view, for each of these two periods, of the annual average revenue which at the rate of the present duties, would have accrued thereon, he shews that the nett annual revenue, which would, at the present rate of duties, have accrued during each of those two periods, amounts to an average, for the years 1790 to 1792, to 6,163,000 dollars; and for the years 1793 to 1798, to 8,350,000 dollars. These sums constitute, not the receipts in the Treasury, but the revenue which would have accrued during the respective years to which they refer. The first may be considered as the revenue accruing during the year 1791; the last as that accruing during the year, ending 30th June, 1796; and as on account of the credit given for the payment of duties, the revenue accruing during one year, constitutes nearly the receipts of the year ending nine months later, those two sums, and the receipts of the year ending on the 30th of September, 1801, as above stated, may,

without material error, be considered as the receipts of three distinct years, four years and a half distant from the other, viz.

	Dollars.
For the year ending 30th Sept. 1792	6,163,000
30th March, 1797	8,350,000
30th Sept. 1801	10,500,000

The ratio of increase during the whole period of nine years, exceeds seventy per cent. whilst that of population, during the same time, was hardly more than thirty per cent.

The ratio of increase during the first period of four years and a half, is near 35½ per cent. and during the last more than 25½ per cent.; whilst that of population, for each period, was only at the rate of 14 per cent. The greater ratio of increase during the first, than during the last period of four years and a half, is owing to the comparison, in the first, being between a period of European peace, and a period of European war, and the last, between two periods of European war.

The ratio of increase of population, being ascertained by the census to be at the rate of 34 per cent. for ten years; if the increase of consumption shall be supported to be hereafter precisely the same as that of population, the annual receipts of the eight years, 1802—1809, may be estimated as nearly fifty per cent. greater than those of the years 1790—1792, or at a sum of near 9,250,000 dollars, if that period be assumed as the basis on which to predicate the estimate. But if the calculation shall be grounded on the revenue of the years 1793—1798, the annual receipts of the years 1802—1809 should be estimated as about 30½ per cent. greater than those of that period, or at about 10,900,000 dollars.

It seems that those two respective sums may reasonably be considered as the two extremes, which the average annual receipts of the eight ensuing years will not exceed. The first calculation of 9,250,000 dollars, appears to be below the probable result, since, being predicated on the consumption of the three years preceding the European maritime war, without any other addition than that resulting from the ascertained increase of population, it rests on the supposition, that the permanent wealth of the United States has not, during that war, increased in any greater proportion than their population; and that the whole of the external commerce acquired during the

same period, must necessarily be lost by the return of peace amongst foreign nations.

Although, therefore, it be presumable that the receipts of some of these years will, from temporary causes, fall below that sum, it is believed that, taking the whole period of eight years, the duties on merchandize and tonnage may safely be averaged at a sum not less than 9,500,000 dollars.

Permanent Internal Duties.

The annual statement prepared by the commissioner of the revenue, and which will be completed in a few days, precludes the necessity of exhibiting here all the details pertaining to this branch of revenue.

The statement [M] is an abstract of its amount for the year 1800, during which the duties on spirits and stills, refined sugars, licenses to retailers, sales at auction, and pleasurable carriages, produced a nett sum of 576,881 dollars and 80 cents. The duties on stamps, which, as under the existing laws they will cease after the 4th day of March, 1803, are not included amongst the permanent revenues, amounting for the same year to 209,853 dollars and 32 cents; both together constitute an item of dollars 786,742 12-100ths.

The receipts in the Treasury from all the internal revenues, have amounted for the year ending on the 30th September, 1801, to 919,719 dollars and 16 cents: deducting from this sum, 65,000 dollars, being the estimated amount of drawbacks, paid during that year, out of the proceeds of the external revenues; on the exportation of domestic distilled spirits and refined sugar, leaves a net sum of about 854,000 dollars, and an increase of near 70,000 dollars beyond the revenue of 1800.

Sales of Public Lands.

Under this head the secretary, after having enumerated the several tracts and districts, which yet remain to be disposed of as the public property of the United States, concludes by observing that, after allowing for every deduction, the lands already sold or to be sold during the eight years, ending with 1809 inclusive, will, for those eight years, on an average, amount annually to 400,000 dollars.

Postage, Dividends on Bank Shares, Incidental.

The annual proceeds of the duties on postage may not be estimated at less than 50,000 dollars. The dividends on bank shares, at the rate of 8 per cent. dividend,

amount to 70,040 dollars; but as the share themselves may eventually be wanted, as a resource to meet certain contingent demands against the United States, those dividends, although constituting a part of the revenue, unless it shall be found necessary to sell the stock, and the incidental or temporary revenues shall be omitted in this estimate of the permanent revenues.

Recapitulation.

	Dollars.
Duties on merchandize and tonnage	9,500,000
Internal duties, stamps excepted -	650,000
Proceeds of the sales of public lands -	400,000
Duties on postage - - - - -	50,000
Total of the average permanent resources for each of the eight years, from 1802 to 1809 inclusive - -	10,600,000

The secretary, after enumerating several sums, arising from balances in the Treasury and from taxes, which are proposed to be abolished, concludes his report with the following comprehensive account of the resources, expenditure and debt of the United States.

The permanent expenditures of the United States relate, either to the current expenses of government, domestic or foreign, civil and military, or to the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt.

The estimates of appropriations for the ensuing year, amounting to 3,448,147 dollars 18 cents, include all the expenses of government, other than those in relation to the public debt, with the exception of those incident to the intercourse with the Barbary powers, estimated after the ensuing year, by the Secretary of State, 70,000 dollars; of those which may be incurred for the purchase of arms, estimated by the Secretary of War at 55,000 dollars, and of a part of the Indian annuities, amounting to 11,000 dollars: these items having been omitted in the estimates of the ensuing year, because the balances of unexpended appropriations have been considered as sufficient for those objects. The Secretaries of State and War, respectively. On the other hand, a sum of about 70,000 dollars, in relation to the census and quarantine laws, which is included in those estimates, is a temporary expense.

The particular sums which, under existing laws, seem necessary to defray the particular authorized expense, being detailed in the annual estimates, will not

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repeated here: and it appears sufficient to recapitulate the gross amount of the general heads of expenditure, viz:

For all domestic expenses of a civil nature - - - - -	Dollars. 780,000
For all the expenses of intercourse with foreign nations - - - - -	200,000
For the military establishment - - - - -	1,420,000
For the navy department - - - - -	1,100,000
	<hr/>
	3,500,000

This sum, deducted from the estimated revenue of ten millions and six hundred thousand dollars, leaves a sum of seven millions and one hundred thousand dollars, annually applicable to the payment of interest, and redemption of the principal of the public debt.

It must be further observed, that the sums assigned to each head of expenditure, being deduced from the estimates of appropriations necessary for the ensuing year; and these have been calculated before the re-establishment of peace in Europe was known, they are predicated for every item which relates to supplies on the then existing prices. A considerable reduction will take place in every item which depends on the price of provisions, freight, transportation, and even wages. Although the saving thence arising cannot yet be correctly ascertained, it may not be estimated at less than 200,000 dollars annually. It is therefore believed, that after defraying every expense necessary to support every civil, military, or naval establishment, to the extent now authorized by law; the annual surplus applicable to the debt, may be confidently estimated at seven millions and three hundred thousand dollars.

He next exhibits the amount of the unredeemed principal of the public debt as it will be on the first of January next, and of the annual interest and charges payable thereon, including the annual reimbursement on the six per cent. and deferred stocks. By the printed statements of receipts and expenditures for the year 1800, transmitted to Congress the first week of the present session, it appears, that the unredeemed principal of the public debt (exclusive of the sums passed to the credit of the commissioners of the sinking fund, which are only a nominal debt due by the United States to themselves: and after deducting the reimbursement of the principal of the six per cent. stock, operated by the annual payment of 8 per cent. on the nominal amount of that stock) amount-

ed, on the first January, 1801, to 80,161,207 dollars and 60 cents.

From another statement it appears that the unredeemed principal will, on the 1st January, 1802, amount to 77,381,890 dollars and 29 cents; the difference of 2,279,317 dollars and 31 cents being the amount of principal paid during the year 1801.

During the same year 1801, more than eight hundred thousand dollars shall have been remitted to Holland, in part of the interest and instalments on the Dutch debt, falling due next year; which sum is not included in the amount of principal, thus stated to have been paid during the present year. The sums which, on the 1st January, 1801, had been remitted to Holland, in part of the interest and instalments due in the course of this year, and which were not deducted from the amount of public debt on the 1st January, 1801, did not exceed five hundred thousand dollars. The amount of debt actually paid, or for the payment of which provision shall have been made during the present year, will not therefore be less than two millions five hundred thousand dollars. And it is believed, though it cannot at present be precisely ascertained, that the balance of specie in the treasury, which, on the 1st January, 1801, was 2,557,895 dollars and 38 cents, will not be diminished on the 1st January, 1802.

The treasury accounts being settled to the 30th day of September last, the amount of public debt paid during the half year, commencing on the first of April, and ending on the 30th September, 1801, as well as the comparative view of the treasury at the commencement, and end of that period, may be precisely stated.

The payments in part of the principal of the debt, made during those six months, exclusively of certain parts of the unfunded debt, which have been reimbursed, have been.

	Dol.	Cents.
1st. To the commissioners of the sinking fund, and to be by them applied, on the first of January next, to the reimbursement of the six per cent. stock - - - - -	129,048	63
2d. To the bank of the United States, on account of the principal of sundry temporary loans, formerly obtained from that institution - - - - -	300,000	
3d. For remittances to Holland, on account of the Dutch debt, 782,665 dollars and 79 cents; from which deducting 245,980 dollars and 50 cents; being the interest and commissions for one		

half of the year 1801, on that debt; leaves paid on account of the principal - - - - -	Dol. Cents.
4th. Evidences of public debt paid for lands - - - - -	536,685 29
	21,282 66
	<u>1,157,016 78</u>

Amounting altogether to one million, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand and sixteen dollars and seventy-eight cents.

The balance of specie in the Treasury, amounted on the first of April, 1801, to 1,794,044 dollars and 85 cents, on the first of October, 1801, to 2,946,038 dollars and 73 cents, making a difference in favour of the Treasury of 1,151,993 dollars and 88 cents; which last sum, added to the above stated payments on account of the principal of the debt, makes an actual difference in favour of the United States of 2,339,010 dollars and 66 cents, during those six months.

The principal of the public debt unredeemed on the first of January, 1802, is arranged under four heads, viz.

1st. Six per cent and deferred stocks.	Dol. Cents.
The nominal amount of this debt is 41,879,523 dollars 23 cents, and the eight per cent annuity, applicable to its interest and reimbursement of principal, amounts to 3,350,362 dollars and one cent. As by the effect of this annuity 5,027,740 dollars and 57 cents of the principal shall have been reimbursed on the first of January, 1802, the unredeemed principal of that debt will on that day be only - - - - -	36,851,784 66
The interest, at the rate of six per cent, on which sum is - - -	2,211,107 08

The part of the 8 per cent annuity at present applicable to the redemption of the principal is therefore, 1,139,254 dollars and three cents, and increasing each year at compound interest, shall, without any further provision, have discharged the whole of the 6 per cent. in the year 1818, and the whole of the deferred debt in the year 1824.

3d. Three per cent. stock amounts to - - - - -	Dol. Cents.
And the interest on the same to - - -	19,079,703 63
	572,391 16

No provision has been made for its redemption, occasional payments for lands excepted.

3d. All the other domestic debts created under the present government of the Union, in order either to discharge other debts, or to meet certain extraordinary expenses. Those include the 3 1/2,	Dol. Cents.
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4 1/2, navy six, 1796 six, and eight per cent. stocks, and the temporary loans obtained from the bank, and amount together to -	Dol. Cents.
The interest on all these constitutes an item of - - - - -	12,035,400
4th. The foreign debt due in Holland, and at Antwerp, amounts, including premiums and gratifications, to - - - - -	828,350
The interest on which, commissions and charges included, is for the year 1802 - - - - -	9,915,000
	476,931

This last debt being payable in instalments, at certain fixed dates, and it being necessary to purchase remittances in America, near six months before the payments are made in Holland, the statement has been added, to shew the payments both on account of principal and interest which become annually due in Holland until the final redemption of the debt in 1809; and the sums which it will be necessary every year to provide in America in order to meet those payments. The greater part of this debt becomes due in the course of the five next ensuing years; and the annual payments, on account of principal and interest for that period, exceed on an average, two millions of dollars. The inconvenience and difficulty of procuring remittances to that amount and the real injury arising from such heavy disbursements abroad, render an extension of the terms of payment, by partial reloans, a desirable object; and measures have been taken to ascertain its practicability. All that seems wanted is, that the gross amount of payments which are to take place during the eight next years, should be more equally apportioned amongst those years, and any greater surplus of revenue which might be freed by that operation, would be applicable to the redemption of those species of the domestic debt which it may be thought most eligible to reimburse.

Whether this operation shall be effected or not, no difficulty is apprehended from want of resource, to discharge every instalment as it shall become due; the sum payable in 1803, in which year the largest payments must be made in Holland, amounting, including both those, and all other actually due, on the account of the interest and reimbursement of the domestic debt, to only 7,100,000 dollars, or 200,000 dollars less than the annuity of 7,300,000 dollars, which has been estimated as the surplus of the revenue applicable to that object.

If that surplus does exist, and if it will be sufficient to meet all the engagements

of the United States, the only remedy to be: which eight years be made annual application time would whole of He next the end by the (7,300,000 principal the end of paid the v temporary navy six half per and 38 ce 150,387 d and a half dollars and 6 per cen ing altoget 70 cents.

The pu 1st January dollars an and 62 ce 25,012 d and a half would be months of of the 1790 dollars and deferred s and 63. cen

It is tru ed on the remittance at par, wh ether hand ple of a ye payable an made is on cipal of the end of the as will be yet, and end of the made. - Th Holland is difference, general res may i that the sam has, applice stipend in on the sup six per cen

of the United States as they become due, the only remaining objects of enquiry seem to be: what impression will, during the next eight years to which these estimates refer, be made on the public debt, by the annual application of that surplus? In what time would the same annuity discharge the whole of the public debt?

He next exhibits the effect produced at the end of the year 1809, on the debt, by the annual application of that sum (7,300,000 dollars) to the payment of both principal and interest, and shews that at the end of those eight years it shall have paid the whole of the Dutch debt; of the temporary loans due to the bank; of the navy six per cent. and of the five and a half per cent. stocks; 5,525,300 dollars and 38 cents of the eight per cent. stock; 150,387 dollars and 26 cents of the four and a half per cent. stock; and 11,399,263 dollars and 6 cents of the principal of the 6 per cent. and deferred stocks, amounting altogether to 32,289,150 dollars and 70 cents.

The public debt would, therefore, on the 1st January 1810, be reduced to 45,592,739 dollars and 59 cents, viz. 954,899 dollars and 62 cents of the eight per cent stock; 25,612 dollars and 74 cents of the four and a half per cent. stock (both of which would be discharged during the four first months of the year 1810;) 80,000 dollars of the 1796 six per cent. stock; 25,452,521 dollars and 60 cents of the six per cent. and deferred stocks, and the 19,079,705 dollars and 63 cents, three per cent. stock.

It is true that this statement is predicated on the supposition that the whole of the remittances to Holland may be purchased at par, which is not probable; but, on the other hand it is calculated on the principle of a yearly, instead of a quarter-yearly payable annuity; or, as if all the payments made in one year, on account of the principal of the debt, took place only at the end of the year, instead of being made, as will be the case, in the course of the year, and stopping the interest from the end of the quarter in which they may be made. — The supposed extra cost of bills on Holland is at least partly covered by that difference, and cannot materially affect the general result.

It may in the same manner be shewn that the same annual sum of 7,300,000 dollars, applied to the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt, would, on the supposition that the whole of the six per cent. and deferred stocks may be

redeemed at par, and that the whole of the three per cent. stock should be reimbursed at its nominal value, discharge the whole of the public debt in seven years and a half after the year 1809, or within the year 1817.

The only part of the preceding estimates which is liable to any material error, is what relates to the probable annual revenue derived from the impost and from the sales of land. Should these prove to have been correct, it will result that the present revenues of the Union are sufficient to defray all the expenses, civil and military, of government, to the extent authorized by existing laws; to meet all the engagements of the United States, and to discharge, within eight years, 32,000,000 of dollars of the principal, and, within fifteen years and a half, the whole of the public debt; that any increase of expense will, probably, either render an increase of taxes necessary, or retard the ultimate payment of the debt: and that any reduction in the present rate of expenditure, may permit a reduction of the present taxes, or be the means of accelerating the redemption of the public debt.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

ALBERT GALLATIN,
Secretary of the Treasury,

Treasury Department,
18th Dec. 1801.

DUTY ON PRINTING PAPER.

A petition has been presented to Parliament for the repeal of the act, by which an additional duty was, last year, imposed on this article. I, who purchase no inconsiderable quantity of printing paper, have refused to sign the petition, and I therefore, think it not altogether improper for me, on the present occasion, publicly to state the reasons, on which that refusal was founded.

The grounds of complaint, as stated in the petition, are: 1. the additional capital, which the high price of paper keeps dead in the warehouse of the bookseller; 2. the diminution in the home demand for books; 3. the diminution, and the threatened annihilation of the export trade; and 4. the injury done to literature by increasing the expenses of publishing its productions.

1. I am ready to acknowledge, that the duty on paper may, possibly, demand an increase of capital in the hands of the bookseller;

I am not, however, sure of this, for the books in store, if they are dearer than they would be, without the duty on them, are fewer in number, or else the plea of diminution, as well as that of the injury to literature are totally unfounded; and, even supposing the necessity of an increase of capital to exist to a very considerable amount, I am yet to learn, that that circumstance is calculated to diminish either the profit or the respectability of the book-selling trade. The truth is, that the comparative profits and respect arising from different trades, are generally in a due proportion to the *value*, and not to the *quantity*, of the articles traded in. The hucksters of old iron and broken glass sell infinitely more articles than the silversmith or the jeweller, yet, I believe, no one would exchange the profits or the respect, attached to the latter, for those, which may possibly be attached to the former. Why is the trade of a banker more respectable and more profitable than that of a bookseller? only because he deals in paper which requires a *superior capital*.

2. *The diminution in the home demand for books*, with which I may couple the 4th proposition, *the injury done to literature*. All our books may be fairly reckoned amongst the luxuries of life, except those for the use of the established churches of England and Scotland; and these are exempted from duty. Whether, therefore, books are dear or cheap, precisely the same sum of money will be expended in the purchase of them; if paper be high priced, there will, indeed, be a less number of books; there will also be a less number of items in the bookseller's account; but its *total* will be the same, and the profits will be somewhat greater, because fewer hands will be employed in the reception and emission of the goods. If it should be admitted, then, as I persuade myself it will, that the duty on paper produces no diminution in the amount of the bookseller's sales and profits, it necessarily follows, that it will produce none in the products of the labour of the *author*. Authors, male and female, will, probably, be somewhat diminished in number; but of this, I imagine, few persons, *particularly booksellers*, will have cause to complain. It will hereafter be seen, that, if the duty be taken off, it will take only 5d from the present price of a common octavo volume, a deduction which cannot possibly be considered as an object worthy of the attention of any one, who has money to expend in the purchase of books. In contradiction to

this, I shall be told, that many works are at this moment, with-held from the press 'till the effect of the petition be known. So far am I from denying this, that I am ready to acknowledge, that I myself have a large work in this very situation; but, a reduction in the duty had never been talked of, this work would have been *abroad in the press*.

3. *The diminution, and the threatened annihilation of the export trade*. If any man in Majesty's dominions be immediately interested in this part of the question, if any one will severely feel the effect of this supposed diminution, it is myself. In proportion to our small capital, nobody exports many books as my partner and myself. Supposing me, therefore, to be under the guidance of common sense, and a common portion of what is very properly called the first law of nature, I should have been the first man in the kingdom to be alarmed at the danger, to which, it is said, the duty on paper has exposed the export trade of books. Yet, I have felt no such alarm, and I am fully convinced, that, when the petitioners give themselves time to reflect, they will laugh at their own apprehensions. Of this part of the subject, I may, without any great degree of presumption, pretend to some knowledge, and, therefore, Ralpho says, "I shall enlarge upon this point."

The export trade of books, in which a diminution is dreaded, the petitioners divide into two parts: the exportation to the *Continent of Europe*, and exportations to the *United States of America*.

On the Continent of Europe we have never been able to support a competition with Paris, Basle, Frankfort, the Hague, Hamburgh, &c. &c. The cheap rates, at which the standard English works have long been printed at those places, has left us no market on the Continent, except the supply of those, who preferred London editions, be the price what it might, and in this market we shall still retain, let the duty on paper be what it may. It is stated in the petition, that many of the works of the best English authors are printed at Paris, and sold for *one half* of the same works, in the same style, can be afforded for in this country. Now, if this be correct, and, I believe, it is perfectly correct, how is it possible for a repeal of the duty to enable us to rival the Continental booksellers? The new duty is 2½d. per pound weight; the average weight of an octavo volume (Johnson's Works, for

stance) is of such a by consequence the Parlia booksell cheaper this is to now to co it will be goes thro and station that it swa nal amou and the and if th their amo of only re would the 6s. 2d. w furnish it any thing statement dent, tha with the ever exist

In the l of America supplanted governme our rivals them so), this fact, statement rion a rea middling costs, in about 28lb to £o: 11 if would be added ping exp the Amer profit 10 cent at le up to £1 can be pur dollars and then, if th off, instea for by the would be which is t in the wa boners. I then, that America? each book not in a bookeller.

stance) is a pound, and the average price of such a volume, in sheets, is 7s. so that, by consenting to the prayer of the petition, the Parliament would enable the English bookseller to export such a volume $\frac{1}{33}$ cheaper than he now can export it; and this is to countervail the $\frac{16\frac{1}{2}}{33}$, which he has now to contend with!!! I am aware, that it will be urged, that the duty swells as it goes through the hands of the paper maker and stationer; agreed: but I cannot allow that it swells to more than double its original amount; if, therefore, both the new and the old duty were to be taken off, and if they are both estimated at double their amount, there would be a deduction of only 10d. in an octavo volume, which would thereby be brought no lower than 6s. 2d. while the Parisian booksellers can furnish it at 3s. 6d. It is useless to say any thing more on this point; for, from the statement of the petition itself, it is evident, that all *competition*, as to cheapness, with the Continental booksellers, is, if it ever existed, now at an end.

In the book trade with the *United States of America* the Americans themselves have supplanted us: nor, can any act of our government enable us to contend against our rivals (if, indeed, we ought to call them so), in that country. To establish this fact, I have only to make a very simple statement of prices, taking for my criterion a ream of demy printing paper, of a middling quality. Such a ream of paper costs, in England, £1 : 14 : 0. It weighs about 28lb. all the duty on which amounts to £0 : 11 : 8. If this duty were taken off, it would cost £1 : 2 : 2, to which must be added for freight, insurance, and shipping expenses, 5 per. cent.; for duty in the American port $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and, for profit to the American importer, 12 per cent. at least, which would bring the ream up to £1 : 9 : 7, while paper, full as good, can be purchased at Philadelphia for three dollars and a half, which is £0 : 15 : 9. Thus, then, if the *whole* of the duty were taken off, instead of the half, which is prayed for by the petition, paper from this country would be nearly as dear again as that which is to be found, in great abundance, in the warehouses of the American stationers. If I am asked, how it happens, then, that we export any books at all to America? I answer, that we export only such books as are not called for in America in a sufficient number to enable the booksellers there to print an edition for

their own country, and such new books as stand a chance of being sold before an American edition can be got out, neither of which description of books can, either now or hereafter, be supplied by any country but England. That some few of the copies of the ornamented Parisian Shakespeares (if, indeed, they are ever printed) will reach America, I have no doubt; but the Americans have printed Shakespeare long enough ago; if they purchase foreign editions it will be for the sake of the ornaments, the comparative value of which ornaments will, in no wise, be affected by the duty on English paper.

All that the government can possibly do, in this case, to serve the booksellers and printers, is to yield efficient protection to our domestic and colonial trade, which it can do by making the duty on all foreign printed books so high as to amount to a prohibition, which is not, at present, the case. Books can now be imported from France, and, after paying all the duties and charges, can be sold much cheaper than English printed books of the same size and quality; nay, books are so imported and sold, in great abundance, and, at the very moment that I am writing, I know that there are 500 copies of a Grammar (of which I myself am the author, and which I now have in the press here) actually on the way from Paris to London. This is a Grammar for Frenchmen to learn English by, and is, of course, in the French language. Two editions of it have been published in France, from an American copy. It cannot be sold here, because I have the copy-right; but, were it not for that circumstance, it could be sold in London for not much more than one half of what I shall be able to sell my edition for. The taking off the duty on paper would, therefore, yield me no sort of protection; nor is the present duty on foreign books sufficient to answer that purpose; it should be, at least, 3s. on each pound weight, both here and in the colonies.

It will be perceived, that I have all along proceeded upon the supposition, that there is *no drawback* on exported books; but, the fact is, that Mr. Pitt, in imposing the duty, in both instances, took care to provide a drawback to the full amount of the duty imposed; and, though this allowance does not make up for the whole of the bookseller's disbursements, on account of the duty, yet it does much towards re-

moving the ground of complaint, as far, at least, as relates to the branch of exportation.

As the result of these statements I am decidedly of opinion, that, the present duty upon paper is injurious neither to the interest of the bookseller, the interests of literature, nor the interest of commerce, and, under this persuasion I could not set my hand to the petition; especially when I considered, that I should thereby join in a prayer for the diminution of those resources, which are now more than ever necessary to the preservation of that government, to which, I trust, the petitioners bear an attachment equal to my own, and on the credit and the energy of which, the prosperity, the happiness, and the safety of us all so essentially depend.

The distresses of the bookselling trade have arisen merely from the increase of that trade, which has, of late, been bloated to an unnatural bulk. It has, for some time, been upon the wane; it has declined much, and this decline will be hastened by the peace, which will diminish the profits of commerce in general, which profits furnished the means of purchasing books. No act of the legislature, no measure that can be adopted, whether of a public or private nature, will stop this decline, which must and will continue, 'till the manufacture of books be reduced to a level with the demand.

Wm. Cobbett.

Pall Mall, 16 Feb. 1802.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Constantinople, Dec. 28. We have just received news from Egypt, by a vessel from Alexandria, that General Hutchinson caused to be buried, with great funeral pomp, the bodies of the five Beys who were killed in attempting to resist the detachment which was conducting them on board the fleet, by order of the Captain Pacha. The difference which arose between the Captain Pacha and the English Admiral and General, had at one time become serious.

Madrid, Jan. 12. His Catholic Majesty has issued an order (which will be found in a preceding page of this work) "to prevent, in future, any other merchandizes than those of France, from enjoying the same advantages on their importation into Spain."

Petersburgh, Jan. 15. The Petersburg Gazette, which had hitherto borne at the

head of it the arms of Malta, united with those of the empire, has, in the first number of the present year, discontinued the

Zurich, Jan. 28. A spirit of insurrection reigns in this Canton, highly alarming which arose from the disgust of the people at the appointment of certain Public Functionaries, who were the objects of general detestation. The few French troops that were here, were compelled to retreat in the greatest disorder by a considerable body of armed peasants, who likewise arrested many of those Functionaries who were obnoxious to them. The news, however, of the approach of a large body of French troops has put an end for the present to the revolt.

Frankfort, Jan. 28. It is said that a union will be formed between the Ecclesiastical Princes of Germany, for the purpose of acting in concert, relative to the affairs of the Secularizations. M. de Döbely, Bishop of Constance, and Coadjutor of Mayence, is the main-spring of this confederacy.

Jan. 29. The Elector of Bavaria has fixed a day for the payment of the arrears of posts due in that country, under penalty of military execution in case of non-payment which is regarded as a proof of the approaching cession of the right bank of the Rhine.

Paris, Feb. 10. A patent for the term of 15 years has been granted to Alexander Sagniel and John Milne, residing at Marseilles, for a spinning machine for the manufacture of cottons.—*Feb. 11,* The Pope has appointed M. Arezzo, Apostolic Nuncio to the Kingdom of Etruria.—Accounts from Berlin remove apprehensions occasioned by the indisposition of Prince Henry.—*Feb. 14.* The Emperor, for receiving the General Congress, Amiens, is in great forwardness.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

The Royal Family will come to London every Tuesday, and remain at the Queen's House till Friday. Every fortnight the Queen will hold a Drawing-Room; and on the alternate Thursday their Majesties will honour one of the Theatres with their presence.

From Madras, under the date Sept. 1801, intelligence has been received of the capture of the French Frigate La Chiffre, of 42 guns, by his Majesty's ship La Sybille, Captain Charles Adam. It is stated,

the engagement between the 19th of Sybille and her gallant harbour, from the he came with who was a battery from which the action killed, and has performed exploits, all less by the Wm. Adam.

The Emperor's edict, prohibiting to the Austrians, if possible, to enter England, English subjects.

Advices Dec. 1801.

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the engagement took place at Sychelles, on the 19th of August; that the loss of the *Sybellé* was very trifling, notwithstanding her gallant commander pushed into the harbour, in spite of the dangers arising from the narrowness of the channel, until he came within musket-shot of the enemy, who was moored across, and defended by a battery of four 12 pounders on shore, from which red-hot shot were fired during the action. The *Chiffonne* had 26 men killed, and 30 wounded. The Captain, who has performed this last of the glorious exploits, all which have been rendered fruitless by the treaty of peace, is the son of Wm. Adam, Esq. the King's Council.

The Emperor of Germany has issued an edict, prohibiting the entrance of sugar into the Austrian dominions, which prohibition, if continued, will be very injurious to England, as we imagine it is aimed at English sugars only.

Advices from Sierra Leona, dated 12th Dec. 1801, give an account of an insurrection in that settlement. Several fights have been the consequence, and it is stated, that every white person, the governor not excepted, have been wounded.

William-Miller, another of the *Hermione's* crew, has been tried by a court martial at Portsmouth, and condemned.

On Saturday last came on for a final hearing, before the Court of Exchequer, the important insurance case of the Dutch sequestrated property, which involves the amount of £480,000. The Barons of the Exchequer and Judges of the Common Pleas delivered their opinions *seriatim*; the result of which was that the opinion in favour of the plaintiffs in the original action were as six to one. Thus the judgment of the Court of King's Bench stands affirmed, and the plaintiffs, (the Commissioners of Dutch Property) will immediately receive the immense sum of money insured, unless the underwriters think proper to appeal to the House of Lords.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

The definitive treaty, that treaty, in which, it was asserted, "that nothing was left to higgler about," drags heavily by the way. The objection, which Spain makes to the cession of Trinidad, is said to be one obstacle, and another is thought to arise from a disagreement with respect to the guarantee of the independance of Malta. Whatever objections Spain may make, are

suggested by France, who may, possibly, upon reflection, not wish to place Trinidad in the hands of England, though, for our parts, we can give no credit to the report, that she is willing to yield us Martinique as a compensation. As to Malta, it is very probable, that Russia may decline the expensive and useless charge of yielding that island an efficient guarantee, which can only be done by keeping up a Russian garrison in it. If Russia refuses, the French will certainly propose the King of Naples, and then we shall repeat Mr. Cobbett's question to Lord Hawkesbury: "who is to guarantee the King of Naples?" This prince is himself a tenant at will under the Consul of France and the President of the Italian Republic (offices which are now happily united in the person of Buonaparté), and who can be weak enough to confide to his hands the preservation of Malta from the power of France? Yet, will France strenuously contend for this point, nor should we be at all astonished if our ministers were to give it up; for, after having consented to the sailing of the French, Dutch, and Spanish armaments, while they felt the necessity of sending out a British fleet to watch their movements, there is no act of condescension, which the enemy may not expect at their hands. By referring to page 140, it will be perceived, that Spain has adopted such commercial regulations, as will shut out from her ports all merchandize except that of France; and by a careful attention to the very valuable report of the American Secretary of the Treasury, which we have inserted at great length, it will be found, that his calculations are predicated upon the presumption of a great diminution in the imposts of the United States, which imposts chiefly arise from the imports of British manufactures, in which he of course, counts upon a considerable diminution.

A Letter to Sir Frederick M. Eden, on this subject, will be inserted hereafter; in the mean time we request our readers to compare the statements and calculations of the American Secretary with those of Mr. Cobbett, in his Letters to Mr. Addington, and we are assured they will agree with the latter, that a very great diminution must take place in our exports to America, in consequence of the peace. A fearful falling off has already marked the business and the receipts of the Custom-House. Some of the merchants, with an impatience, which may very well be excused, in their present circumstances, have

pressed Mr. Addington with anxious inquiries about the conclusion of the definitive treaty, as if that would once more enliven their affairs. That some part of the present stagnation of trade proceeds from the uncertainty, respecting that treaty, is evident; but the far greater part of it is to be placed to the account of the *regular decline*, which began on the fatal first of October, and which will never stop, 'till the tonnage of Great Britain is reduced to one half of its present bulk. We know, that, on this point, our opinions are in direct opposition to those of Mr. Pitt, and, for the sake of our country; we sincerely wish, that events may prove him not to be less our superior in commercial knowledge than he is in eloquence and in rank.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Promotions.—The King has been pleased to grant (Feb. 13, 1802) the dignity of a Baron of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland unto the Right Hon. Sir John Mitford, Knight, and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style, and title of Baron Redesdale, of Redesdale, in the county of Northumberland.—The King has also been pleased to order Letters Patent, containing a Grant unto the said Right Hon. John Baron Redesdale of the Office or Place of Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal of Ireland, in the room of John Earl of Clare, deceased.—The honour of Knighthood has been conferred on Alexander Mackenzie, Esq.

SHERIFFS.

Anglesey.—William Bulkeley Hughes, of Bryndda, Esq.
Carmarthen.—Thomas Owen, of Glassoult, Esq.
Denbigh.—Daniel Leo, of Llannerch-Park, in the room of Edward Lloyd Lloyd, of Penyllan, Esq.

Amendments upon the Roll.

Kent.—Thomas Jull Godfrey, to be Thomas Godfrey, Esq.
Suffolk.—Thomas Cocksedge, of Ingham, to be Thomas Cocksedge, of Bury St. Edmund's, Esq.
Mr. J. Kirby is appointed by Lieutenant-Governor Nugent, Chief-Justice of Jamaica, in the room of the late Hon. J. Henckell.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Birth.—At Rose-Castle on the 8th instant, the Lady of the Hon. and Right Reverend, the Bishop of Carlisle, of a daughter, being her Ladyship's thirteenth child.

Marriages.—At Inverneil, on the 2d instant, Roger Pocklington, Jun. Esq. of Wintworth-House, Notts, to Miss Jane Campbell, daughter of Sir James Campbell, of Inverneil.—On Saturday, in Portland-place, by special license, the Right Hon. Lord Sinclair, to Miss Chisholm, only daughter to James Chisholm, Esq.—On Tuesday the 16th instant, at the

parish church of St. Mary-le-bone, by the Bishop of London, Thomas Law Hodges, of Henstead-place, Esq. to Miss Twisden, only daughter of the late Sir R. Twisden, Bart. of Bradbourne-Park in the county of Kent.

Deaths.—On the 1st instant, at Brereton, Staffordshire, the Hon. Mrs. Talbot.—On Sunday morning at two o'clock, in the 88th year of his age, at Deanery-House, in the city of York, the Rev. Mr. Fountayne, D.D. and Dean of York. He was appointed Dean in the year 1745-6.—On the 1st instant at Brereton, Staffordshire, the Hon. Mrs. Talbot. At Ayr, the 3d of February, aged 65, Lady Hamilton, widow of the late Sir Henry Hamilton, Bart. of Castle Cunningham, in the county of Down, Ireland.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

English three per cent. consols.—Saturday 13th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Monday, 15th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Tuesday, 16th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Wednesday, 17th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Thursday, 18th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Friday, 19th, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Average of the last five days, $69\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$.—Foreign Stocks.—Eight per cent. 114 $\frac{1}{2}$.—Five per cent. 114 $\frac{1}{2}$.—Tiers Consolidés, 56 francs, 75 cents.

PRICES CURRENT IN LONDON.

CORN.—English Wheat 65 to 80s. per quarter. Foreign 44 to 80s. Rye 38 to 42s. Barley 35 to 40s. Malt 45 to 55s. Oats 16 to 24s. Pease 34 to 40s. Beans 30 to 45s. Flour 55 to 60s. per sack. Condensed 45 to 53s. Coals 34 to 40s. per chaldron. Hops 62 to 84s. per cwt. Hay 50 to 90s. per ton. BREAD 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the quarter loaf. Beef, per cwt. 4s. 6d. to 6s. 2d. Mutton 5s. to 6s. 8d. Pork 5s. 8d. to 7s. 6d. Tallow 5s. 6d. to 7s. Average of Sugar 39s. 8d. per cwt.

Observations on the Weather, near Guildford, in Surrey, in the Month of Feb. 1802. (Morning at 9 o'Clock—Afternoon at 2 o'Clock.)

Days.	Moon's Age.	Weather.		Winds.		Barometer.		Thermometer.	
		M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.
11	11	Snow 1 In. A. M.		NW	WNW	29.4	29.5	34	34
12	12	Fair.		NE	NE	29.8	29.85	33	33
13	13	Frost—Fair.		N	NE	30	29.9	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	14	Frost.		NNE	NE	29.05	29.9	35	35
15	15	Frost and Snow.		N	N	29.73	29.7	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
16	16	Snow last Night—Fair.		NW	WNW	29.5	29.4	34	34